
Plant Disease in Kansas

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Wheat disease update

Special points of interest:

- *Speckled leaf blotch of wheat was the most important disease in wheat over the past two weeks.*

Wheat disease was noted in many fields in south central and central Kansas over the past two weeks. In this area, speckled leaf blotch was the predominant disease. Nearly every field had some level of disease. Many fields had speckled leaf blotch lesions on the flag leaf. The severities ranged from 1 to 40 per cent. The majority of the observations were at the 10 per cent severity level on the flag leaf. Lesions were generally rectangular in shape and black pycnidia was observed inside the lesions.

Another important disease to the area was barley yellow dwarf virus. Symptoms varied from field to field. In some fields, 3 to 10 foot circular spots of infected plants were observed. In other fields, plants were scat-

tered with little pattern. Plants exhibited stunting and yellow and purple flagging of leaves. Incidences over 50 per cent were observed but generally 3-5 per cent was the normal level. High levels were seen in Stafford, Pratt, and Kingman counties.

Leaf rust was present but has not increased to the extent as anticipated. This may be due to rather cool weather. Leaf rust was observed in about 10 per cent of the fields on the flag leaf at low to trace levels.

Other diseases that were observed were head scab and take all. Head scab was common to many fields. Levels were low with 1-5 per cent incidence and about 20 per cent of the head affected. Take all was observed as dying plants with shiny black

discoloration of the stem tissue at the soil line. Incidence was low and found in about 10 per cent of the fields in Kingman County.

Diseases of landscape trees

New pine tip blight infection of Austrian pine was observed in northeast Kansas. Diseased tips can be observed as resinous, stunted, and dead or dying.

On Siberian elms, elm leaf black spot or anthracnose was defoliating trees in Manhattan.

Other anthracnose diseases of maple, oak, and sycamore have not been observed at this level.

PLANT PROTECTION AND WEED CONTROL
PROGRAM

PO BOX 19282
FORBES FIELD, BLDG 282, STREET I
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66619-2180

Phone: 785-862-2180

Fax: 785-862-2181

<http://www.ksda.gov/plant%5Fprotection/>

WEB ADDRESS FOR THE PLANT
PROTECTION PROGRAM

**AUTHOR: JON A. APPEL
PLANT PATHOLOGIST
KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

**MANHATTAN, KANSAS
PHONE: 785-537-3155
EMAIL: JAPPEL@KDA.STATE.KS.US**



Plant Protection and Weed Control Program

Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

Our Mission is to:

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantine pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

The Plant Disease Survey in Kansas has been conducted since 1976. The survey addresses disease situations in field crops, native ecosystems, and horticultural trade. The Kansas Department of Agriculture works cooperatively with Kansas State University and Extension programs, United States Department of Agriculture, and various commodity groups.

Karnal Bunt survey to start with the wheat harvest

The Kansas Department of Agriculture will again be sampling the state's harvest for the disease known as Karnal bunt.

Karnal bunt is a disease of seed or grain and often referred to as partial bunt. The disease is highly regulated in international trade. The disease has never been found in wheat grown here in the state. The first survey was conducted in 1993 and annually since then.

For Kansas wheat exports, the state has the status of the disease not known to occur. This status is dependent on the results of the survey.

The survey will take over 360

samples across the state or about 1 sample per 1 million bushels of harvested grain.

Figure 1. KARNAL BUNT

